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National
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Iran: Non-Muslim Communities Under the Islamic Republic

An Intelligence Memorandum

Secret

PA 80-10345
August 1980

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**Iran: Non-Muslim
Communities Under the
Islamic Republic**

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Summary

Iran's non-Muslim religious minorities fear that the continued lack of central government control and the development of a strict Shiite Islamic Republic threaten their security. Most Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians—minorities recognized and protected by the Iranian constitution—have not been seriously threatened and are not likely to be as long as they are not identified with internal or external forces considered to be a threat to the Khomeini regime. Bahais, however, who are viewed as Shia heretics and are not protected under the constitution, have been systemically persecuted since shortly before the fall of the Shah; they are even more vulnerable now.

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This memorandum was [redacted] of the Office of Political Analysis, was coordinated with the National Intelligence Officer for Near East–South Asia. Information available as of 11 August 1980 was used in its preparation. Comments are welcome and should be directed to the Chief, Southwest Asia Analytic Center, Near East–South Asia Division, [redacted]

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